



A king rail (*Rallus elegans*), uncommon in Connecticut, nests at Great Island Marsh, a preserve of The Nature Conservancy at the mouth of the Connecticut River. A recent gift of undivided interest in land from Adela S. Bartholomew and Philip B. Johnston enlarged this preserve to 43 acres.

Photo by William Burt

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CONN.
STUDIES

LAND ADDED TO GREAT ISLAND SANCTUARY

Through generous donations from Adela S. Bartholomew and Philip P. Johnston, 61% undivided interest in 32 acres has been added to the Conservancy's Great Island Marsh Preserve, near where the Connecticut River enters Long Island Sound.

The Nature Conservancy's preserve system at the mouth of the Connecticut began in 1969, when Gertrude Wells Barney donated the 15-acre Lieutenant River Marsh. Later that year William E.S. Griswold, Jr. donated eleven acres on Great Island to the Conservancy. In the following three years, donations by W.E.S. Griswold, Jr. and C.L. Griswold established the Griswold Marsh, a 17.8-acre tract located midway between the Lieutenant River and Great Island. The 20.55-acre Griswold Point Preserve was assembled between the years 1974 and 1976, with a donation from Matthew Griswold IX and bargain sales from Lea M. Griswold, Elizabeth D. Griswold Whitley and trustee D. Strauss.

The ecological significance of these areas is outstanding. At Griswold Point there are piping plover and least tern nests, which are monitored by the Conservancy's Least Tern/Piping Plover Recovery Program and protected by summer wardens (see article on page 5). Griswold Point is also a good example of a plant community unusual in the state, known as a southern New England coastal beach

continued on page 2

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AT WORK

	Nationally	In Connecticut
Total projects	4,996	337
Total acres saved	2,377,040	15,579
Sites registered	247	14
Members	243,680	7,844
Corporate Associates	427	18

National Office: 1800 North Kent St., Arlington, Virginia 22209

continued from page 1

strand, and harbors sea beach sandwort, *Honkenya peploides*, a rare plant.

Great Island has a wide array of bird species not often seen in Connecticut. These include king rail (*Rallus elegans*), American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), and willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*). The area is also a good example of a salt marsh. Not all of these occur within the 43 acres controlled by the Conservancy. But, the remainder of Great Island is owned by the State of Connecticut and protected from development and major disturbance.

Great Island and Griswold Point and the waters between are the loci of extensive geomorphological studies by professors at Wesleyan University (see page 5). Their data provide an historical perspective of the development of the present land forms.

Truly the circumstances at the mouth of the Connecticut River demonstrate compatibility of various forms of passive recreation. Boating, swimming, sunbathing, hiking, photography, and canoeing can all occur, with certain limitations, in an ecologically sensitive area and provide enjoyment for all.

Said Executive Director Ken Olson, "We are indebted to the many generous individuals who have made possible the preservation and the wise use of the marshes and beaches at the lowest reach of the Connecticut. The Conservancy is pleased that the new addition adds another measure of permanent protection to the area." The preserves are accessible by canoe from the state-owned launching area, Smith's Neck Road, Old Lyme.

Beth P. Lapin

Beth P. Lapin
Director of Science and Stewardship

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BUYS TRAIL CORRIDOR FROM TNC — PROCEEDS WILL SAVE OTHER LAND

In a transaction that benefits the public, the National Park Service (NPS) and The Nature Conservancy, the Chapter recently sold NPS land at St. Johns Ledges in Kent, along the Housatonic River. The Service will continue to protect the land in perpetuity while managing it as permanent corridor for the Appalachian Trail, which traverses the property.

Said Peter Cooper, Chairman of the Chapter's Acquisition and Development Committee, "This is yet another example of how the Chapter gets the maximum mileage from contributions of any kind. In this case, land was originally given to us through the generosity of The Stanley Works.

"Now, the sale to the National Park Service has netted more than \$100,000, which the trustees have allocated toward other acquisitions that will benefit the public." Cooper continued, "As a Chapter volunteer, I am proud to point out to other members that the Conservancy works very hard to get the highest conservation value from every kind of transaction."

VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION PROTECTS FOURTEEN SITES SO FAR

During the first six months of operation, the Connecticut Natural Heritage Registry, under Carolie Evans of The Nature Conservancy and Diane Mayerfeld of DEP, has contacted 28 owners of land that harbors rare or endangered species. To date fourteen owners have volunteered to protect the noteworthy natural features of their property.

Registry helps to develop a solid relationship between private owners and TNC. The program recognizes and rewards a person's voluntary commitment to land conservation. Nationwide, more than 2,000 landowners are participating.

In March, Governor William O'Neill, Honorary Chairman of the Connecticut Critical Areas Program, publicly announced the inception of the Connecticut Registry. "Under our Registry program," he said, "staff of The Nature Conservancy and the Department of Environmental Protection meet with the landowner and explain the importance of that property . . . The owner is invited to register the land voluntarily . . . I am confident that our Natural Heritage Registry will play a major role in preserving these lands for the benefit of those who will follow us."



Carolie Evans presented landowner Richard Albrecht a plaque recognizing his willingness to protect the Hurd Brook Natural Area, now listed on the Connecticut Natural Heritage Registry.

LAND TRUST CONVOCATION SET FOR OCTOBER 26

"Strategic Decisions: Connecticut Land Trusts in the Next Five Years" will be the theme of the Third Annual Convocation of Land Trusts on Saturday, October 26, at the Yale School in New Haven. The keynote speaker will be Caroline Pryor, Associate Director of the Land Trust Exchange, a national organization which promotes land trusts. Ms. Pryor will discuss the results of the Exchange's national study on trusts and how the findings relate to choices for Connecticut trusts.

The convocation will offer workshops to trusts of all levels of activity and sophistication, from new and struggling trusts to those ready for advanced land saving techniques. The workshops include: How to Acquire Land, How to Manage Land, How to Manage a Trust, Publicity, Membership Development and Fundraising, New and/or Struggling Trusts, Conservation Easements, Charitable Laws for Laypeople, Dealing with Officialdom, Creative Land Development, Farmland Preservation, and Connecticut Land Trusts in the Next Five Years.

A happy hour will end the day, giving trust members a special opportunity to get acquainted. All TNC members are invited, as is anyone interested in land saving through private action. For information call 344-9867.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER 25TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, September 14, 1985
Burnham Brook Preserve
East Haddam, Connecticut

RAPTORS, BARBECUE, AND HIKE HIGHLIGHT SILVER ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Live birds of prey, a barbecue picnic, and guided hikes through one of the Chapter's most beautiful preserves all highlight the Connecticut Chapter's 25th annual membership meeting. We hope you will join us — rain or shine — for a day guaranteed to be fun for all.

We will also be honoring Richard and Esther Goodwin, donors of much of Burnham Brook Preserve, as Conservancy President William D. Blair, Jr. and Connecticut College Professor William Niering look back on Dick's impressive record of accomplishment as a conservationist and scientist.

Scenic Burnham Brook Preserve is habitat to a tremendous variety of birds, mammals, trees, shrubs, ferns, mosses, and flowering plants, on which records have been kept by field researchers for more than 20 years. Many of these scientists will be on hand to lead hikes and answer questions.

Live birds of prey — including, among others, the golden eagle and great horned owl — will be exhibited by Dick Lucius (see article on page 4 for details).

We hope that you will join us in celebration of our silver anniversary and of our finest year to date.

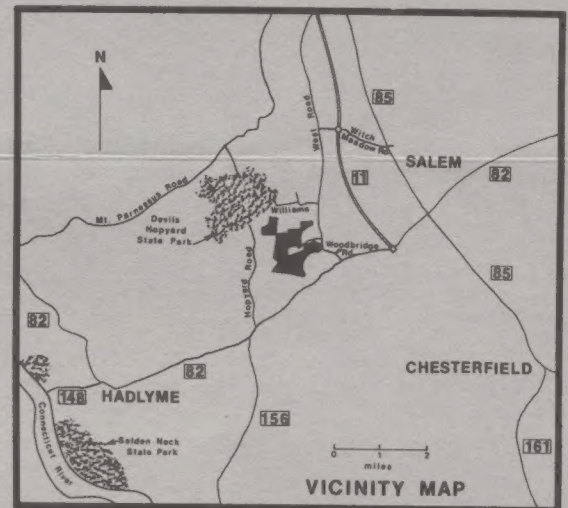
Dress is casual and we will meet rain or shine.

PROGRAM

- 10:30–11:30 — Dick Lucius and his birds of prey
- 11:30–11:45 — Connecticut Chapter annual business meeting
- 11:45–12:45 — barbecue picnic lunch
- 12:45– 1:30 — celebration of the addition of the Richard and Esther Goodwin Woodland to Burnham Brook Preserve
- 1:30– 4:30 — guided hikes of Burnham Brook Preserve

Open Bar

RAIN OR SHINE!



DIRECTIONS TO BURNHAM BROOK PRESERVE

From the north: Follow Route 2 and then Route 11. Exit at Witch Meadow Road and turn right at the bottom of the ramp. Go 0.5 mile to West Road. Turn left and go 3 miles to Dolbia Hill Road (second right). The entrance is 0.5 mile up Dolbia Hill Road on the right.

From the west: Follow I-95 to Old Lyme, exit 70. Turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto Route 156. Drive for about 9 miles to its end. Go right on Route 82 for 2.5 miles. Go left on Woodbridge Road 1 mile. Go left on Dolbia Hill Road 0.5 mile. The entrance is on the right in 0.5 mile.

From the east: Follow I-95 to exit 77. Turn right onto Route 85. Go for about 10 miles to the traffic light at Route 82. Go left on Route 82 for 2.3 miles. Go right on Woodbridge Road for 1 mile. Go left on Dolbia Hill Road 0.5 mile. The entrance is on the right in 0.5 mile.

RESERVATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Number Attending _____

_____ Picnic lunch, including open bar (\$10.00/person)

Check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Please mail to: The Nature Conservancy
Connecticut Chapter
Box MMM, Wesleyan Station
Middletown, CT 06457

RESERVATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 3

Space is limited — reservations accepted in order received
Make checks payable to The Nature Conservancy

From the Land

Summer/1985

Published for the members of
the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

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Dick Goodwin led two groups of TNC members on hikes at the Burnham Brook Preserve, East Haddam, on April 20. Photo by Beth Lapin

DICK LUCIUS TO PRESENT LIVE BIRDS OF PREY

The morning of the Chapter's September 14th annual meeting at Burnham Brook Preserve, Dick Lucius, a Master Falconer with over 35 years of experience in working with raptors, will conduct a program on birds of prey.

His program centers around a display of live North American raptors including the red-tailed hawk, prairie falcon, and great horned owl.

The largest of his birds is a 13-pound golden eagle, held under a special educational permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The rapport that has developed between Dick and the big golden makes her one of the very few eagles anywhere in the country that can be shown before a close-up audience.

In addition to his live birds of prey, Dick's program includes examples of equipment used in the ancient sport of falconry. He also displays several one-of-a-kind reproductions of American Indian artifacts. Indians greatly admired the birds of prey, and often used the birds' likenesses and feathers in their craft work. Rawhide shields and a golden-eagle feather warbonnet are shown.

This unique combination of live birds of prey and related articles blends excitement with education. The result is an appealing presentation for all ages.



BOARD NOMINATIONS

At the September 14, 1985 annual meeting, Chapter members will be asked to vote for members of the Board of Trustees:

Nominated as Members of the Board

For election by the general membership.

Austin D. Barney, II, West Simsbury. New nominee.
Rufus Barringer, Hadlyme. Current Board member.
Sarah Richards, Guilford. Current Board member.
Karl Wagener, Glastonbury. New nominee.

Nominated as Officers

For election by the Board of Trustees.

Alexander S. Gardner, New Canaan. Chairman.
Peter Neill, Stony Creek. Vice-Chairman.
John A. Blum, North Colebrook. Treasurer.
Peter B. Cooper, Bethany. Secretary.

1985 SCIENCE AND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

In 1985, The Nature Conservancy began sponsorship of its eleventh year of summer field research under Beth Lapin, the Director of Science and Stewardship. The projects described on these pages provide the Conservancy with valuable data with which to manage our land. Information collected is also used to update the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base.

LEAST TERN/PIPING PLOVER RECOVERY PROGRAM

Since 1983, TNC's Julie Zickefoose has been instrumental in the protection of two of Connecticut's most threatened breeding birds, the least tern and piping plover. The Least Tern/Piping Plover Recovery Program, which runs from mid-April to mid-August, has had a demonstrably positive influence in Connecticut's populations of these two birds. Through posting of nesting areas, patrolling, and public education, Julie and a growing staff of volunteers seek to enlighten summer's beaching-going crowds to the need to protect the birds, which lay their eggs on the sand of mainland beaches from Stratford to Old Lyme.

In regular visits to each nesting colony, Julie censuses nests and records data on fledgling success. Such surveillance has produced a better understanding of which colonies are productive and what types of problems exist. Managing the vegetation of nesting beaches and using decoys to lure terns into protected areas have proven successful in offsetting the widespread habitat loss and human pressure causing the birds' decline.

Perhaps the best indicator of the Recovery Program's success has been in the number of least tern chicks fledged since its inception. In 1983, the first year of the program, an estimated 60 fledglings were counted, from 235 pairs of terns. In 1984, after a season of protection, 367 pairs produced over 160 fledglings. Approximately 750 pairs of least terns and 17 pairs of piping plovers tried their luck on Connecticut's beaches this year, and the Recovery Program was there to help them along.



Julie Zickefoose cradles a least tern egg and chick at a marked nest during one of her surveys.

Photo by Beth Lapin



Wesleyan scientists research geomorphology of Lord's Cove Preserve.

GEOMORPHIC STUDIES AT LORD'S COVE

Drs. Peter Patton and Gregory Horne and research assistant Eric Howard are conducting research at Lord's Cove Preserve, Lyme, to determine the geologic history of the cove. They are mapping the geologic sub-environments within Lord's Cove and, through the use of historic charts and sequential aerial photographs, are evaluating the historic evolution of the tidal creek and marsh complex.

The fieldwork itself involves taking a series of cores of the sediment throughout the cove in order to study its long-term geologic evolution. The coring device, called a vibro-core, can penetrate ten meters into the sediment. Studying the cores will allow a reconstruction of the past physical environment of the cove. Cored rhizomes from the marshes will reveal something about the changing plant communities through time. Finally, Patton and Horne are analyzing pollen from the upper portions of these cores. In particular they are looking for the documented dramatic increase in ragweed pollen that occurred when agricultural fields were cleared in the Connecticut River basin at the end of the 17th century.

This research, coupled with work they are doing at Griswold Point and Great Island, will contribute toward an understanding of the development of the lower Connecticut River over geologic time.

SURVEYS OF ANIMALS

Bats

Mammalogist Robert Dubos, of the University of Connecticut, will survey bat colonies in Connecticut over the next year. His work will include inspections of mines and caves during fall, winter and spring to record presence or absence of species and environmental conditions and the presence or absence of species.

Amphibians and Reptiles

Michael Klemens, herpetologist with the American Museum of Natural History, is dividing his time searching for two of Connecticut's most elusive creatures — the five-lined skink (New England's only lizard) and the spadefoot toad. Although these species occur in very different habitats, they are both near their northeastern range limit and have been reported from only a few Connecticut sites.

Klemens is inventorying the state's low lying sandy areas looking for evidence of the extremely secretive spadefoot. This toad is a desert-adapted species that breeds during torrential rains and has rapid larval development. This breeding strategy evolved in areas where rainfall is infrequent and evaporation from pools rapid. Several years can pass until conditions favor their reproduction.

Skinks inhabit south-facing cliffs and ledges. Why they occur on certain cliffs and not on others is one question Klemens is attempting to answer. He has confirmed their presence at one historical site and discovered a population in Connecticut's northwest corner, which is a range extension for this species. This site was especially challenging, consisting of a 45-degree slippery ledge and cliff face inhabited by another endangered reptile, the timber rattlesnake. "One had to keep alert when turning rocks, as you never knew *which* was underneath — the skink or the rattlesnake!" he said.

The information collected will be entered into the Natural Diversity Data Base and utilized in Klemens' forthcoming publication on Connecticut's amphibians and reptiles.



Margarett Philbrick and Professor Bob Askins will provide additional permanent vegetation plots in six Conservancy preserves as part of their forest bird research.

FOREST BIRD COMMUNITIES

Many nature preserves are becoming isolated islands of natural habitat in a sea of residential or commercial development. There is growing evidence that habitat islands of this sort lose many of their most distinctive species even when the land is carefully "protected". Birds, for example, tend to disappear from remnant patches of mature forest when surrounding tracts are destroyed, as when five species disappeared from Cabin John Island, Maryland between 1947 and 1983. Although the floodplain forest at the study site was preserved, most of the surrounding forest was cut down.

Between 1952 and 1984, the Connecticut Arboretum at New London lost several species, including black-throated green warbler and canada warbler, even though the study area was carefully monitored and was protected by a six-foot fence. Again, surrounding forest habitat had been destroyed. The implications of these studies are sobering for those interested in maintaining biotic diversity.

How small and isolated does a forest have to be before it loses many of its forest birds? To answer this question, Robert Askins, Assistant Professor of Zoology at Connecticut College and three students, Margarett Philbrick, David Sugeno and Shannon McNew, are surveying bird populations in 46 forest tracts in southeastern Connecticut. Six of these tracts are in Conservancy preserves (Barrett, Burnham Brook, Chapman's Pond, Lord's Cove, Milo Light, and Pike-Marshall). Censuses in 1983 and 1984 have shown that bird species characteristic of the forest interior are frequently missing from smaller forests, especially if these forests are isolated. The maximum density and diversity of forest birds is found in large areas of contiguous forest such as Burnham Brook Preserve.

This summer The Nature Conservancy is sponsoring vegetation surveys of all the forests where bird censuses have been completed to determine how vegetation affects the density and diversity of forest birds. Perhaps a small, isolated forest can support a diverse community of forest birds if it has "rich" or complex vegetation. The results of this study may have general implications for managing nature preserves, and for acquiring habitat in Connecticut, where few undisturbed large tracts remain.



Michael Klemens (left), herpetologist with the American Museum of Natural History and summer TNC field researcher, examines a snake on a Connecticut preserve. James Warner (right), also with the American Museum and president of the Connecticut Herpetological Society, spent the spring surveying sites in Connecticut for rare, secretive reptiles. Populations are located by checking soil and topographic maps, then intensively field checking suitable habitats. Photos by Beth Lapin

VEGETATIVE ANALYSES

This summer The Nature Conservancy is funding two different vegetative analyses.

Plots and Transects

In 1979, The Nature Conservancy began a program establishing permanent transects and plots in preserves. These permanent plots help to monitor the plant communities by keeping a record of their growth.

This summer, Susan Langevin is reviewing natural resource inventories of the Conservancy's preserves to determine the number and types of plots established. If any of the plots are more than five years old, Sue will resurvey them and note any significant changes.

In surveying the plots, the diameter and general condition of the trees will be recorded and the distance along the transect will be noted. The percentage of leaf cover will also be recorded.



Sue Langevin, a recent graduate from Southern Connecticut State University, is providing an update of the status of plant communities in several preserves.

Photo by Beth Lapin

Flora — Wolfpits Preserve

Dan Cappel is conducting the Conservancy's other vegetational study this summer at the Wolfpits Preserve in Bethel. The wet meadow in the southwest corner of Wolfpits Preserve represents a distinct and potentially unique vegetational community in extreme southwestern Fairfield County. Though small in size (approximately two acres), it is botanically rich. More than 100 species of vascular plants have been identified, including several more commonly associated with calcareous habitats.

The community is underlain with fertile alluvial soil deposited by Wolfpits Brook, which in the past meandered through the area. Although the stream has been diverted in the past, numerous traces of original stream meanders are still in evidence where the vegetation is characteristic of open marshes. Slightly higher and drier intervening sites support an array of shrubs and herbaceous plants many of which are uncommon in lower Fairfield County.

At present, there are clear indications that the relatively open area is reverting to red maple swamp. Part of this study will attempt to quantify the degree to which the successional change is occurring. This, along with data concerning distribution and abundance of all included species, will assist TNC in making management decisions.



Thimble Islands, Branford.

Photo by Lauren Brown

THIMBLE ISLANDS BOTANICAL SURVEY

Lauren Brown, botanist and Curator of the Connecticut Audubon Society Birdcraft Museum, and Penni Sharp, Conservationist of the Town of Wilton, have undertaken a botanical survey of the Thimble Islands, off Branford. Brown started the project in 1984. The Conservancy is now providing funding for mapping and reproduction costs.

The 29 Thimble Islands are Connecticut's only rocky islands — the tops of granite hills drowned by the post-glacial rise in sea level. The combination of thin soils, salt spray, and wind makes a fairly unusual and stressful environmental for plant growth. The two investigators are curious to see how the vegetation reflects these conditions. With the kind cooperation of the islands' private owners, they will note dominant species' adaptations to environmental conditions, as well as keep a constant look-out for rare species.

PRESERVE SELECTION AND DESIGN

Karen Sexton, a recent master's graduate from the University of Connecticut, is working as a preserve selection and design intern for the summer. She will create 25 site packages for natural areas that are proposed for registration under the Connecticut Natural Heritage Registry or for acquisition through the Connecticut Critical Areas Program.

The package is used to determine the importance of a site and the best way it can be preserved. It includes a summary of species and communities, evidence of disturbances and threats, and a habitat map. Ecological boundaries are determined and mapped along with property ownership lines.



*Karen Sexton (left), preserve selection and design intern, has verified the current status of several rare plants and located a new population of the rare Goldie's fern (*Dryopteris goldiana*). Dan Cappel (right) is researching vegetation at Wolfpits Preserve.*

Photo by Beth Lapin

SUMMER WARDENS DO MORE THAN POLICE

Griswold Point, Hatchett's Point, and Pattagansett Marshes have much in common. Situated on Long Island Sound, both Conservancy preserves and the easement (Hatchett's) have a stretch of sandy beach backed by fragile dunes, and both are habitat for endangered bird species. Both Griswold and Pattagansett favor large summer crowds, not necessarily beneficial to the protection of the natural areas and their biota.

For about ten years the Conservancy has employed seasonal wardens to patrol and protect Griswold Point. The warden program at Pattagansett has been running for half as many years. These young men and women are generally college-aged and are in khaki uniform sporting an identifying Conservancy insignia. Most are majoring in environmental studies, and they spend the summer on the beach in continual contact with the public. This provides a fine opportunity to pass on their knowledge about the seashore ecosystem and to learn more.

This summer, Susan Latourette, Caryl Dunavan, and Susan Altman will share the warden duties at both preserves. They will pick up litter, post signs, keep beach grass off the dunes, persuade water-skiers to go elsewhere, and ask picnickers to carry out what they carry in. Above all, they will make sure that the osprey, least tern, and piping plover are left in relative peace.

Their high visibility on the beach makes them ideal ambassadors for The Nature Conservancy. Armed with membership envelopes and the latest newsletter, they do an admirable job of publicizing the Conservancy's mission.

The 150 acres at Byram River Gorge in Greenwich are ably looked after by off-duty policeman Tom Cox, who reports directly to preserve chairman Phoebe Millikin. In the decade that Cox has been affiliated with the Conservancy, he has acted as our soft-spoken emissary, persuading teenagers to run their dirt bikes other than inside our boundaries both here and at the Helen G. Altschul Preserve in Stamford.



Wardens Sue Latourette, Caryl Dunavan and Susan Altman.

Photo by Beth Lapin

BOTANICAL SOCIETY HELPS SUPPORT SMALL GRANTS

Don Swan, President of the Connecticut Botanical Society, has announced financial support of The Nature Conservancy's science and stewardship programs. A recent grant by the Society will help support Lauren Brown and Penni Sharpe with their vegetative study of the Thimble Islands and Dan Cappel with his work at the Wolfpits Preserve. "Because of the similar goals of the two organizations, it is logical to pool resources to fund research such as these projects," said Beth Lapin, Director of Science and Stewardship for the Conservancy. "We anticipate a continued cooperative relationship between CBS and TNC."

FUNDING SOURCES FOR SCIENCE AND STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

Funding for the projects described in these pages comes from the science and stewardship portions of the Connecticut Critical Areas Program. The science fund provides funding for research which yields data for the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base and generally is species-oriented. Examples are Jim Warner's turtle surveys and Bob Dubos' bat work.

The Critical Areas stewardship fund generates interest which is placed in a land management fund. This fund supports activities on preserves, such as the wardens at Griswold Point and Dan Cappel's inventory at the Wolfpits Preserve.

Both the Critical Areas science and stewardship funds are raised from corporations and individuals. The Critical Areas Program has just entered its third and final year. The science fund is at 100% of project goal while the stewardship fund is at 22% of goal.

Additional funding comes through specific donations, such as the grant received from the Connecticut Botanical Society. Individual gifts to the Least Tern/Piping Plover Recovery Program have enabled continued support of this project and replacement of signs and posts. Several preserve committees also support activities on their preserves.

If you have not yet made a major capital gift to the Critical Areas Program, please consider doing so. We will be pleased to earmark contributions according to the donor's wishes. It's a great way to help build the permanent stewardship fund and other invested funds that support scientific inquiry and management.

FIELD RESEARCHERS MEETING

On June 4, 1985, about 25 of the field research team, TNC staff and staff of the Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base assembled at Wesleyan University for an annual field researchers meeting. In the morning, the Conservancy and Data Base staffs and several TNC trustees presented formal discussions pertaining to the organization and goals of the Conservancy. This was followed by a lunch and opportunity to meet each other and discuss research and projects in an informal setting.

CATHEDRAL PINES DEDICATED AS NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK

On June 12, 1985, The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service (NPS) dedicated Cathedral Pines as a National Natural Landmark. This 42-acre woodland in north-west Connecticut is the most massive single stand of old-growth white pine and hemlock forest in New England and the Adirondacks. The National Natural Landmarks Program identifies areas which represent important examples of the nation's natural history.

Cathedral Pines was saved from logging in 1883, when it was purchased by John Edward Calhoun. The property was passed on to his three children, Jean C. Bacon and John and Frank Calhoun. In 1967, the Calhoun family generously donated Cathedral Pines to the Conservancy for preservation.

At the dedication ceremony, Herbert S. Cables, Jr., Regional Director of the NPS North Atlantic Region, presented the Conservancy with a certificate and a bronze plaque to be mounted at the preserve. Cables, a Milford resident, said, "The Nature Conservancy deserves praise for its commitment to the preservation of this lovely area."



Cathedral Pines Preserve.

Photo by George Bellerose

FIFTH EASEMENT SECURED AT MOORE BROOK

The Chapter is pleased to report continued progress in preserving the Moore Brook watershed in Salisbury. In June, Mr. and Mrs. George Rosenfeld donated a permanent conservation easement protecting 15 acres of wetlands along the west bank of Moore Brook.

Moore Brook was targeted for protection in 1983, under the Connecticut Critical Areas Program. It is considered to be one of Connecticut's best examples of a calcareous seepage swamp. To date, botanists from the Conservancy and the State DEP have identified eight plants and one animal known to be rare or endangered in Connecticut.

Since 1983, the Connecticut Chapter has secured permanent conservation easements protecting 220 acres of prime wetlands, and we anticipate increasing this total before the end of the year. The Salisbury Association will help monitor the Moore Brook easements.

Commented David Warren, "The Chapter is indebted to the Rosenfelds for their interest and support of this project.

Because of their generosity and foresight, an important section of the Moore Brook watershed will remain forever wild. They have exhibited great care for the land, and we are glad to have them as stewards of such an important resource".

CRITICAL AREAS PROGRAM PASSES \$2 MILLION MARK

In two years, the Connecticut Chapter has raised more than \$2.3 million in private contributions (cash and written pledges) toward the three-year \$3.1-million goal of the Connecticut Critical Areas Program.

Chairman Alex Gardner extended the trustees' deep appreciation to the many individuals, corporations, and foundations who have made important contributions. Said Gardner, "This is an outstanding accomplishment. We are deeply grateful for the strong support of our members and I wish to thank, in particular, the individuals and corporations who have made magnificent leadership gifts. I am encouraged by these results and have every hope that we will reach our goal by early 1986".

Critical Areas Program Director David Warren said that the Chapter will continue to seek additional leadership gifts and encouraged those members who could make major capital contributions to do so.

Warren also thanked the many members who have given to the Chapter's spring appeal for Chapter operating funds. "The response has been excellent and we are grateful to all who have helped. The contributions made in addition to annual dues help to provide important operating income which allows us to continue our efforts to identify and manage the best of Connecticut's natural habitats. Those operating gifts are just as important as the major capital gifts."

FIELD TRIPS

*September 28: Fall Canoe Trip Griswold Point/
Great Island, Old Lyme
(Rain date: September 29)*

Come explore the lower Connecticut River with us. Canoes can be rented directly from the Black Hall Bait and Tackle (434-9680) for \$20/day. Pick up canoes and meet at the Smith Neck Landing in Old Lyme promptly at 9:45 a.m. The trip is limited to 20 canoes, so you are urged to reserve early. Please pack a picnic lunch.

October 12: Onion Mountain, Canton

Join Jay Kaplan on a morning hike with some strenuous uphill walking to see a trap-rock ridge system. Jay, Director of the nearby Roaring Brook Nature Center, is active in the Canton Land Trust and is on the Conservancy's volunteer preserve committee for Onion Mountain.

To reserve a space on either trip, please send a card with your name, address, and telephone number to:

Field Trip Coordinator
The Nature Conservancy CT Chapter
55 High Street
Middletown, CT 06457AA

You will receive a map and directions approximately two weeks before the trip.

GOVERNOR DESIGNATES HAMMONASSET PRESERVE

With a stroke of his pen, Governor William O'Neill gave permanent protection to 402 acres of salt marsh, dunes and an important nesting area at Hammonasset State Park, Madison. For the first time in thirteen years, a little known law has been invoked to set aside — forever — prime natural lands already owned by the state, as has been done in the Housatonic State Forest and at four other state-owned sites.



Governor William O'Neill designated 402 acres at Hammonasset State Park as a Natural Area Preserve at a ceremony on May 22, 1985. TNC is one of several conservation organizations that serve on the Natural Area Preserve Advisory Committee, which studies prospective preserves and recommends designation to DEP and the Governor.

Photo courtesy of Coastal Area Management

The designation of Hammonasset Natural Area Preserve does not interfere with existing beach use at the sprawling Hammonasset Park, the state's most heavily used recreation site. Rather, the public can now be assured that future development of the park will be restricted to outside the designated preserve. Compatible recreational, educational and commercial uses (such as shell fishing) will be permitted under preserve regulations.

"Governor O'Neill's action is historic," said TNC Chairman Alexander Gardner, "and all Connecticut citizens owe him thanks." Gardner went on to congratulate Deputy Commissioner Dennis DeCarli, State Forester Bob Garrepy, and Natural Heritage Coordinator Diane Mayerfeld, "three outstanding DEP employees who worked energetically to bring off this great achievement and who sensitively sought the support and comments of citizens, conservation groups, and other interested parties."

The Natural Area Preserves Act permits the designation of as many as 10,000 acres across Connecticut. So far, only 2,043 acres have been protected under that law. Said TNC Executive Director Ken Olson, who serves on the Natural Area Preserves Advisory Committee, "The Conservancy is pleased to have played some small part in the Hammonasset designation. We hope that the Governor and DEP will seize the opportunity to designate 8,000 more acres as provided for in the law, and we pledge our continued support to that effort."

TRADELAND SALE BENEFITS CRITICAL AREAS PROGRAM

The Chapter recently closed on the sale of a tradeland — property donated specifically for resale. Proceeds have been used to help protect Benton Hill Fen, in Sharon, a priority project under the Connecticut Critical Areas Program.

In April, the Conservancy sold 57 acres of undeveloped woodlands located in Salisbury which had been donated to the Conservancy by Mrs. Dorothy R. Walker of Lakeville. Commented Chairman Alex Gardner, "The Chapter is indebted to the Walkers for this generous and timely gift, which has now become a real asset to the Connecticut Critical Areas Program. The Walkers are longstanding Conservancy members and dedicated conservationists who have done much to protect important areas in northwest Connecticut."

The Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base conducted an independent evaluation of the Walker property, as it does with all tradeland gifts. This parcel, although not habitat for any of Connecticut's rare and endangered species, does feature a prominent ridge line which is an integral part of Salisbury's striking rural landscape. As part of the sale, the Conservancy has placed permanent conservation restrictions on the property, limiting the extent of residential development so that the high visual quality of the ridge line is not diminished.

"We call this 'conservation brokerage'," said Critical Areas Program Director David Warren, "Working with a carefully selected realtor we sought a conservation-minded buyer who was willing to accept our restrictions. In this way, limited, appropriate development occurs on land which can tolerate it, while critical habitats are benefitted by the proceeds of the sale. The Walker tradeland is an interesting case study in that the donor, the realtor and the buyer are all Conservancy members."

Warren also thanked realtor Robinson Leech, Jr. of Lakeville for his assistance with the sale and his sensitivity to the aesthetic and environmental concerns involved.



CONSORTIUM SAVES 2000 ACRES ON HOUSATONIC

One of the largest and most important land purchases in Connecticut was completed recently when the National Park Service (NPS) bought from The Stanley Works 2,000 acres in Sharon, Kent and Cornwall. Most of the property will be preserved. Some will be made available for limited development compatible with the aesthetic and natural amenity of the area.

Besides The Stanley Works, NPS, and representatives of the towns, the principals included the Housatonic Valley Association, Appalachian Mountain Club, Appalachian Trail Conference and Conservation Resources Group, a private firm headed by Pat Noonan, former TNC President.

The Connecticut Chapter congratulates the consortium on this significant accomplishment, which benefits all citizens of Connecticut.